

Message Text

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ACTION LAB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7970

UNCLAS LONDON 00427

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UI

SUBJECT:REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE CONSTRUCTION IN-
DUSTRY

REF: STATE 301380

1. IN RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, THE EMBASSY CONSULTED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE UNION OF CONSTRUCTION AND ALLIED WORKERS (UCATT).

2. FROM THESE SOURCES THE EMBASSY DEDUCES THE FOLLOWING. THE UK DOES NOT HAVE AN OVERALL LONG-TERM PROGRAM TO MAXIMIZE EFFICIENCY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY THROUGH THE PLANNING AND SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES. IN GENERAL, SUCH PROGRAMS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS INITIATED IN THE PAST HAVE TENDED TO BE ON A SHORT-TERM OR "ONE-MFF" BASIS, DESIGNED FOR EXAMPLE, TO SLOW DOWN THE RISE IN DOMESTIC COSTS. IN THE PREVAILING RECESSION IN THE UK, THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IS EXPERIENCING RISING UNEMPLOYMENT, COMPOUNDED BY THE CUT-BACK IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE. THE UK HAS PROGRAMS TO STIMULATE EMPLOYMENT ON A NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BASIS, BUT THESE MEASURES TEND TO BE GENERAL AND NONE ARE DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

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3. THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT IS ENDEAVORING TO PRO-

VIDE SOME MATERIAL WITH REGARD TO QUESTIONS IN REFTEL PARAGRAPHS I AND II. TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE IF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR COULD PROVIDE US WITH ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PILOT PROJECT BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE CHICAGO CONSTRUCTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE, SUCH AS, TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE PROJECT AND THE TIME-SPAN IN WHICH THE COMMITTEE ARE INTERESTED.

4. WITH REGARD TO REFTEL PARAGRAPH III. AN ANSWER TO WHICH WAS REQUESTED BY JAN. 12, THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT HAS OPODUC-ED A TABLE OF OUTPUT PER MAN AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SINCE 1970 -- COPIES OF WHICH HAVE BEEN SENT BY INTERNATIONAL AIR MAIL AS REQUESTED. THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO COMPILE ANY FURTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION IN THE SHORT TIME AVAILABLE. BUT WE WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING WHETHER WE SHOULD PURSUE THIS MATTER FURTHER.

RICHARDSON

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